

Message Text

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SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY MANSFIELD ON TURKISH AID EMBARGO

FOR HARTMAN FROM LOWENSTEIN

1. FOLLOWING IS AP STORY TODAY QUOTING EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS MADE BY SENATOR MANSFIELD CONCERNING TURKISH AID EMBARGO MADE ON SENATE FLOOR THIS MORNING:

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD TODAY CALLED ON THE HOUSE TO RECONSIDER AND REVERSE ITS DECISION TO CONTINUE THE CUTOFF OF ARMS SALES TO TURKEY.

HE SAID CONTINUANCE OF AN AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO WILL SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, THREATEN THE STABILITY OF THE CURRENT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN GREECE, AND POSE THE POSSIBILITY TURKEY MAY DECIDE TO USE ARAB MONEY BUY ARMS FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

MANSFIELD DID NOT MENTION THE ACTION OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FRIDAY ORDERING THE SUSPENSION OF ALL ACTIVITIES

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TIES AT U.S. BASES IN TURKEY.

"THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO IS, TO PUT IT MILDLY, IN A STATE OF DISARRAY," MANSFIELD SAID.

HE CITED POLITICAL TURMOIL IN PORTUGAL, ECONOMIC TROUBLE AND COMMUNIST POLITICAL ADVANCES IN ITALY AND THE CONTINUING INVOLVEMENT OF GREECE AND TURKEY OVER THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

"THE RESULT IS THAT IT APPEARS THAT PORTUGAL AT ONE END AND GREECE AND TURKEY AT THE OTHER ARE AT THE MOST VERY WEAK LINKS IN THE CHAIN OF DEFENSE," MANSFIELD TOLD THE SENATE.

"I WOULD HOPE SOME WAY COULD BE FOUND TO RECONSIDER THIS MATTER OF AID TO TURKEY," MANSFIELD SAID. HE SAID HE BELIEVES THAT IF AID IS NOT CONTINUED TURKEY WILL ADMANANTLY REFUSE TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS. HE SAID THIS WOULD RESULT IN CONTINUED PRESSURE ON THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.

MANSFIELD NOTED TURKEY'S LONG BORDER WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND SAID, "IF THE TURKS CANNOT BUY ARMS FROM US THEY WILL GET THEM FROM EUROPE -- EITHER WESTERN OR EASTERN EUROPE OR THE SOVIET UNION.

"IF THEY NEED THE MONEY THEY WILL GET IT FROM THE ARABS," HE SAID.

HE SAID TURKEY HAS HISTORICALLY MAINTAINED A NON-INVOLVED POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST BUT THAT THE NEW SITUATION RAISES THE POSSIBILITY IT MAY DECIDE TO INVOLVE ITSELF.

2. COMMENT. BOB ANDERSON TELLS US THAT FOR NOON BRIEFING JULY 28 HE COULD USE ANY PUBLIC REACTION ON PART OF SECRETARY OR PRESIDENT OR ANY OTHER GUIDANCE PARTY MAY WISH TO PROVIDE. INGERSOLL

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